

## **SUMMARY: COLLECTION AND SHIPPING OF BLOOD AND URINE SPECIMENS TO NYSDOH WADSWORTH CENTER LABORATORY AFTER A SUSPECTED CHEMICAL EXPOSURE EVENT**

**Important note: These guidelines are intended for samples collected throughout New York State, excluding the 5 boroughs of New York City.**

Following a suspected chemical exposure event, health care workers and law enforcement personnel should be aware that the analysis of clinical specimens from exposed or potentially exposed individuals - including first responders, symptomatic persons, or the worried well - serves as an invaluable public health tool. Realistically, specimens collected for analysis by the Laboratory Response Network (LRN) may not always be analyzed in time to guide/assist clinicians in the treatment of their patients, especially if the agent(s) released are highly toxic and rapid acting. At a minimum, however, specimens collected for analysis by the LRN will identify the agent(s) released, identify the limits of the exposure, provide evidentiary information for law enforcement professionals, and quantify the levels of exposure for an individual or identify cases of non-exposure.

**Please read the accompanying guidelines carefully, including collection and shipping instructions.**

### **Collection of Clinical Specimens in the Event of a Suspected Chemical Exposure Event**

- Contact NYSDOH Wadsworth Center Laboratory for specific specimen collection/submission guidance**  
**Contact numbers: 518-474-7161 (business hours), duty officer 866-881-2809 (after hours)**
- Assemble personal protective equipment and sample collection materials
- Label all tubes and urine containers
- Collect blood and urine specimens using the instructions provided. Blood specimens should be collected as soon as possible. Urine specimens, ideally, should be collected a few hours after the exposure
- Properly dispose of collection materials and personal protective equipment
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap
- Complete Chain-of-Custody Form and NYSDOH Wadsworth Center *Request for Chemical Analysis: Clinical Specimens form*

### **Shipping Instructions: DO NOT SHIP BLOOD TUBES AND FROZEN URINE CUPS IN THE SAME PACKAGE**

- Assemble shipping materials
- Wrap each blood tube separately
  - Pack tubes by patient number (i.e., keep all specimens from the same patient together)
  - Place in secondary packaging and add absorbent material
  - Seal secondary packaging (first layer and outermost layer) with evidence tape and initial
  - Place secondary container, as well as two frozen gel packs, in Styrofoam insulated outer shipper
- Wrap each urine cup separately
  - Place in secondary packaging
  - Seal secondary packaging (first layer and outermost layer) with evidence tape and initial
  - Place secondary container, as well as 2 layers of dry ice, in Styrofoam insulated outer shipper
- Enclose *Request for Chemical Analysis: Clinical Specimens form* and the shipping manifest in a sealable plastic bag and place on top of specimens before closing lid of shipper
- Secure outer mailer with shipping tape and attach appropriate shipping labels

**Important note:** It is the shipper's responsibility to ensure that the correct packaging and labeling of shipping containers is performed. Containers and labels must meet the new IATA regulations for Packaging and Transport of category B infectious substances.

**Ship Specimens to (LABORATORY APPROVAL REQUIRED):** Wadsworth Center  
NYS Department of Health  
Room D421  
Dock J-P1 Level, Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12237